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## The Perfect Life

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*College of DuPage*

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# The Perfect Life

— Thomas Fons

She was fourteen years old  
when I paid twenty-five American dollars for her.  
The back room of a bar -  
Olongapo, Philippines.

The Navy was not for me:  
Mr. Clean, Mr. Respect, Mr. Fit -  
not my thing, not my bag.  
I packed my bag late one night  
while clean, fit guards slept.

Away I stole with my few belongings:  
a duffel bag and Sally,  
whose real name didn't matter  
as mine no longer did.

Now in peace we live -  
my bride and I -  
not quite paranoid of an eventual  
knock on our door:  
a distraught mother  
or maybe an M.P.